



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

# THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

Second Sunday of Advent  
Sunday 8th December 2024

**Parish Priest:** Reverend Stephen G McGrattan ([stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk))

**Assistant Priest:** Reverend Kevin J A Rennie ([kevin.rennie@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:kevin.rennie@rcdg.org.uk))

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**Pastoral Assistants:** Sister Mary Rose Confidence, Sister Mary Mabel, Sister Marilyn Juliet

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A parish of the R C Diocese of Galloway ([www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk](http://www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk)). Charity number SC010576. ONELICENCE #A-632895.

## LITURGY AND GATHERINGS FROM SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER – 15th DECEMBER 2024

Mass is livestreamed on the "St Joseph's, Kilmarnock" YouTube channel.

Date	Time	Gathering	Mass intention (Fr McGrattan / Fr Rennie)
Saturday 7th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Special Intention /
Sunday 8th	11.00 am	Mass	People of the Parish / People of the Parish
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	2.00 – 3.30 pm	Children's Christmas Party in St Joseph's Hall	
	5.30 pm	Vigil Reception of Tom McGeady, RIP	
	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Choir Practice for Christmas	
Monday 9th	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for Tom McGeady, RIP	Tom McGeady (RIP) / Tom McGeady (RIP)
Tuesday 10th	10.00 am	Mass	Rena McCann (Ann) / Thanksgiving
	10.30 – 11.00 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
	10.30 – 10.45 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	11.00 – 1.00 pm	Community Café in St Joseph's Hall	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Reception of Mae Brown, RIP	
	7.00 pm	Kilmarnock Parishes Penitential Service in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church	
	10.00 am	Requiem Mass for Mae Brown, RIP	Mae Brown (RIP) /
Wednesday 11th	6.00 pm	Mass	John McCann (Ann) /
Thursday 12th	6.30 – 7.30 pm	RCIA in St Joseph's Church	
Friday 13th	10.00 am	Mass	Andrew Scott (RIP) /
Saturday 14th	10.00 am	Mass in St Matthew's Church	
	5.30 – 5.45 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass	Peter Kapczuk (Ann) / Stephen Harrison (Ann.)
Sunday 15th	11.00 am	Mass	People of the Parish / People of the Parish
		P4 Sacramental Preparation Mass	
	After Mass	Tea and Coffee in St Joseph's Hall	
	6.00 – 8.00 pm	Choir Practice for Christmas	

The church is open for prayer Monday to Friday from 9.30 am until 4 pm. Enter through small side door.

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** With sadness we inform you of the death of Mae Brown. Mae's mortal remains will be received into the church on Tuesday 10th December at 6 pm and her Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 11th December at 10 am. We extend our condolences to their families and friends, may they rest in peace.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY:** will take place today from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm. All children (12 and under) from our parish are invited to come along for games and snacks, as well as a visit from Santa himself!

**91ST AYRSHIRE ST JOSEPH'S SCOUT GROUP CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY:** The 91st Ayrshire (St

Joseph's) Scout Group will be delivering Christmas cards within the Kilmarnock town area, Hurlford and Crookedholm only. All cards must be correctly addressed to ensure delivery. The cost is 50 pence per card. Collection points are Beaver, Cub and Scout gatherings on 4th and 5th December; then at all Masses at St Joseph's, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Matthew's Churches on 7th and 8th December. Deliveries will take place over the weekend of 14th/15th December. This fundraising effort is very important for the success of our Scout Group throughout the year. Thank you for your support.

**LOOKING FOR SOME NEW CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS?** Or perhaps a gift for someone this Christmas? Art students from St Joseph's Academy will be at the

**Hall bookings:** Margaret McGrath (01563 542130). **Safeguarding co-ordinator:** Margaret McGrath (01563 542130)

**Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals:** In emergencies ask hospital staff to page on-call priest chaplain. For regular visiting:

Crosshouse Hospital: Fr Stephen McGrattan ([stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk) or 01563 521832)

Ayr Hospital: Fr Benjamin Mkeri ([benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.org.uk) or 01655 882145)

**St Andrew's Primary:** 01563 549549 **Mount Carmel Primary:** 01563 525897 **St Joseph's Academy:** 01563 526144

**Standing orders:** £621. **Weekly collection:** £1,321.99. **SCES:** £10.

Thank you for generously supporting our parish.

Community Café on Tuesday to sell some of their handmade Christmas Tree decorations. The decorations are made out of clay and entirely produced in the school. All funds raised go to support the students in their work.

**PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE:** We are trying to augment the membership of the parish Finance Committee, the group which reviews and approves stewardship and offers advice. If you feel you have something to contribute to this group, please speak to Fr Stephen.

**DO THIS IN MEMORY:** Next Sunday (15th December) our young parishioners continue their preparation for the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion with another of the special "Do this in Memory" Sundays. Children, please bring your candles and gather in the sacristy a few minutes before Mass to walk in the procession.

**CONTACTLESS DONATIONS:**

The Diocese has teamed up with Give A Little to make contactless donations available in parishes. You can now support St Joseph's by contactless donation using the machine in the porch, or online through our website, just:

- 1) Select the Collection, 2) Choose the amount, 3) Tap your card, 4) (If you're a taxpayer) Enter your email address to register for Gift Aid.



This will not replace the traditional cash collection but is intended to offer those who don't carry cash the opportunity to donate in support of the parish.



**GALLOWAY YOUNG ADULTS:** Fr Kevin and Fr Stephen had a great first meeting of the Galloway Young Adults on Sunday where the discussion focussed on the theme of "Encountering Christ in our Lives". Galloway Young Adults meets on the first Sunday of every month in St Joseph's from 5.45 – 8.00 pm and is open to Young Adults aged 18-30 from across the Diocese. Interested? Come and join us on Sunday 5th January for the Young Adults Christmas Dinner. To register, please see the poster in the porch.

**GALLOWAY DIOCESE NEWS:** The latest edition of the Galloway Diocese News is available to collect from the porch as you leave today. There is sufficient for one per household.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** We are grateful to the team of cleaners who work extremely hard to keep our church looking its best and making St Joseph's a pleasant and welcoming place to come to worship. We are looking to recruit more cleaners to make this job easier for everyone. The cleaners ordinarily work on the first Friday of each month, starting after 10.00 am Mass. If you would be able to spare an hour or two to help out please come along on Friday 6th December or speak to Francis Donachie (07568562100) for more information.

**MINIBUS DRIVERS:** We are looking to recruit additional drivers for the minibus to allow us to run the minibus for the housebound more frequently. This would require the driver to drive around pre-arranged houses to collect the housebound and bring them to Mass before returning them again afterwards. Typically, this means collecting persons from 9.30 am and finishing drop offs around 1.30 pm. If you would be interested, please speak to Fr Stephen or Fr Kevin for more information.

**CATHEDRAL SERVICE OF READINGS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS:**

A Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral on Wednesday 18th December at 7.30 pm, accompanied by the Diocesan Choir. The service provides an opportunity to come together as a diocesan community to celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. All are welcome.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE:** A Carol Service will take place in the church on Monday 16th December at 1.00 pm followed by tea coffee and mince pies in the hall afterwards.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:** Mass of Christmas Night (accompanied by our choir and organ) will be celebrated at 9.00 pm on Christmas Eve. Christmas Morning Mass will be celebrated at 11.00 am on Christmas Day.

In preparation for Christmas, the Kilmarnock Parishes Penitential Service will be celebrated on Tuesday 10th December at 7.00 pm in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. As we prepare for Christmas it can be easy to lose sight of Christ among the busyness and preparations, this is an important opportunity to seek to restore our relationship with Christ by seeking forgiveness for our sins.

**CAROLS AT THE CROSS:** The annual Salvation Army Carolling will take place on Saturday 21st December from 11.00 – 12.00 pm at the Kilmarnock Cross. Come along and join us for a wonderful hour of carols followed by tea, coffee and mince pies from 12.00 pm in the New Laigh Kirk. Can't stand outside for the carolling? You can still come along to the New Laigh Kirk at 12.00 pm.

**DIOCESAN WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA:** As part of Bishop Frank's work on communications the Diocese has launched a new Diocesan website: [www.rcdg.org.uk](http://www.rcdg.org.uk) where you can find lots of useful information and news from the Diocese. To keep up to date with the latest from across the Diocese be sure and follow us on Facebook, X, or Instagram: RC Diocese of Galloway - @rcdgalloway.

**JUSTICE & PEACE SCOTLAND NEWSLETTER:** See all the latest activities and campaigning across the J&PS network in the latest quarterly newsletter, available at [www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk](http://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk). It also includes information about how you can get involved and play your part.

**HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY:** Fr Stephen, Fr Kevin, and the Sisters visit Catholic patients in Crosshouse Hospital typically twice weekly. If you know of anyone in the hospital, please let us know by email ([stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:stephen.mcgrattan@rcdg.org.uk)) or phone 01563 521832 and they will be visited during our routine visiting. We are not automatically notified when a Catholic patient is admitted to hospital and so we rely on receiving the information from family and friends. For general visiting in Ayr Hospital please contact Fr Benjamin Mkeri at [benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.org.uk](mailto:benjamin.mkeri@rcdg.org.uk) or on 01655 882145. **For urgent or emergency assistance from a chaplain please ask the hospital staff to page the priest on call.**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:** There's lots coming up over the next few weeks, so save the date and join us for what you can:

- Kilmarnock Parishes Advent Penance Service – Tuesday 10th December, 7.00 pm (Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church)
- Sacramental Preparation Mass – Sunday 15th December, 11.00 am
- Parish Carol Service – Monday 16th December, 1.00 pm
- Diocesan Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas – Wednesday 18th December, 7.30 pm (St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr)
- Altar Server's Christmas Panto Trip – Saturday 28th December
- Senior Parishioners Christmas Dinner – Sunday 5th January, 12.00 – 3.00 pm
- Young Adults Christmas Dinner – Sunday 5th January, 6.00 – 8.00 pm

**MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK**

	Readers	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Sunday Teas	Children's Liturgy	Welcomers	Bidding Prayers
<b>Saturday 7 December 6pm</b>	M Kirk, K McGhee, A Davidson	A Gorman, J Lennon, M McGrath, C Power, M Steele	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Claire, Margaret	H Rameckers
<b>Sunday 8 December 11am</b>	An Davidson, E Bohan, M Cunningham	A Neil, J Shields, F McCann, M Andrew, P Dorrian	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	Anne & Mike Timmons	IHM Sisters	Theresa, Alan	H Rameckers
<b>Saturday 14 December 6pm</b>	H Rameckers, M McGrath, F Donachie	K McGhee, Sr Mabel, D Casey, A Gorman, J Lennon	Joseph, Lexi, Antoni, Ravindu, Maia			Anne, Michael	M McGrath
<b>Sunday 15 December 11am</b>	R Doak, L Hand, T Murphy	D Custodio, M Walker, P Chigbo, E Cunningham, L Dorrian	Ryan, Marilyn, Aidan, Mark, Rachel, Luca, Gabo	Anna Mackie, Alice Murphy	Anne & Lucie Dorrian	Paul, Libby	M McGrath